



Gun violence claiming more lives of American teens, children

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Gun violence is killing an increasing number of American children, from toddlers caught in crossfires to teenagers gunned down in turf wars, drug squabbles or for posting the wrong thing on social media.

Shootings involving children and teenagers have been on the rise in recent years, and 2021 is no exception. Experts say idleness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shares the blame with easy access to guns and disputes that too often end with gunfire.

LeGend Taliferro, a 4-year-old boy who loved dinosaurs and basketball, was sleeping on the floor in an apartment in Kansas City, Missouri, when he was shot on June 29, 2020. A man who had been involved

in a dispute with LeGend's father is awaiting trial for second-degree murder. A probable cause statement said the suspected shooter had been trying to find LeGend's dad after that altercation. "Why do we have to resort to violence because we're mad?" LeGend's mother, Charon Powell, asks. "What are other ways we can figure out an issue without harming somebody?" The U.S. saw 991 gun violence deaths among people 17 or younger in 2019, according to the website Gun Violence Archive, which tracks shootings from more than 7,500 law enforcement, media, government and commercial sources. That number spiked to 1,375 in 2020 and this year is on pace to be worse.



People gather for The Gun Violence Memorial Project set up outside Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Philadelphia on Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.

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Continued from Front

Through Monday, shootings had claimed 1,179 young lives and left 3,292 youths injured.

FBI data backs that up. The agency released a report on Sept. 28 showing homicides in the U.S. increased nearly 30% in 2020, and homicides among people ages 19 and younger rose more than 21%.

Horror stories abound.

In St. Louis, 9-year-old Caion Greene died in March when someone opened fire on his family's car. A 17-year-old is charged in the crime. Police and prosecutors have declined to discuss a motive or say what prompted the shooting.

Two Minneapolis children were gunned down in May. Nine-year-old Trinity Otton-Smith was shot in the head while jumping on a trampoline. Police said she was the unintended victim of a bullet meant for someone else. No arrests have been made. Six-year-old Aniya Allen was shot when her mother drove her car through a gun battle.

On Oct. 2 in Milwaukee, an 11-year-old girl was killed and a 5-year-old girl was injured when someone fired into their family's car from another vehicle. Police have not said if they know of a motive and are seeking information from the public.

More often, the victims are teenagers.

Jamari Williams and Kentrell McNeal, both 15-year-old students at Simeon Career Academy High School in Chicago, were killed in separate shootings on Sept. 21. No arrests have been made and police declined to speculate on what led to the shootings.

At Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School Mastery Charter, five students were killed and nine others were shot or shot at during the



Dr. Lindsay Clukies poses for a portrait outside St. Louis Children's Hospital, where she is an emergency room doctor, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

last school year. Just weeks into the new school year, two students and a recent graduate have been killed. The school offers a space for memorials to slain students, often helps with funeral expenses and offers counseling services.

"We have gotten exceptionally good at knowing what to do, and how to offer help when a young person loses their life ... we have gotten really good at that," principal LeYondo Dunn said.

A March report from the Children's Defense Fund found that child and teen shooting deaths reached a 19-year high in 2017 and have remained elevated. Black children and teenagers were four times more likely than whites to be fatally shot.

The fund's president and CEO, the Rev. Starsky Wilson, said a spike in gun sales during the pandemic has made things worse.

"There are more guns available on the street and there are folks with less opportunity to engage in productive activity," Wilson said. "A combination of those two is really challenging."

Social media also plays a role, experts say. A posted insult can turn quickly into retaliation, said Jason Smith, a homicide division captain in Philadelphia.

"Social media makes it so easy to throw that disrespect," Smith said. "They're doing it in real time."

Dr. Lindsay Clukies, an emergency room doctor at St. Louis Children's Hospital, said she and her staff often see repeat victims.

"It's not uncommon that we see a child with a big scar and we say, 'What happened?' and they say, 'Oh, I was shot once before,'" Clukies said.

"It's so frustrating as a medical provider because we obviously pride ourselves in taking amazing care of kids and saving lives and fixing lives, but these injuries are preventable," Clukies said. "There's nothing that compares to having to tell a parent that their child passed away from a completely preventable thing."

The Justice Department sought to address the violence through "Operation Legend," named for LeGend Taliferro. His mother takes comfort in the fact that her son's death helped spur a national effort that resulted in hundreds of arrests. Still, the pain never goes away.

"It's really a mental battle to get through every day," Powell said. "It's really difficult to know he's not here and I won't hear his voice." On the day before Father's Day last year, some-

one fired shots at a group of boys on the front porch of a Chicago home. The bullet missed the boys but pierced a window into the dining room where 13-year-old Amaria Jones was showing her mom a dance routine she was perfecting for TikTok.

The bullet shattered a TV and everyone scattered for safety. When Amaria's mother returned, she found her daughter on the floor, holding her wounded neck and trying to call out, "Mom." Amaria was pronounced dead at a hospital. No arrests have been made.

"I grew up in this neighborhood and I've been around a lot of gun violence," Mercedes Jones, Amaria's 28-year-old sister, said. "I've ducked bullets flying near my head. I'm used to that. Not Amaria. She didn't hang out like me. She didn't know that lifestyle."

While small children are often caught in the crossfire, teenagers are most commonly targeted — often by other teenagers — in drive-by shootings on interstate highways or gunned down in broad daylight on urban streets.

Shaquille Barbour of Philadelphia was killed June 6, a week before his high school graduation — shot 13 times as he rode his bike home from a corner store. No arrests have been made, and police aren't offering a motive. His father, Joseph Barbour, still struggles to hold back the anger.

"I don't think people know how hard it is, not to want to retaliate," he said. "These kids are on the street, and it feels like they're hunters. They brag and taunt people after they kill someone, too."

Smith, the Philadelphia detective, said the shootings are as brutal as they are brazen.

"They will empty an entire

magazine into someone's torso or their head," he said. "They call it walking a person down. They shoot a person and incapacitate them ... then walk them down, walk until they are standing over them and unload their firearm into that individual."

Efforts and ideas to slow the violence are varied.

Wilson, of the Children's Defense Fund, suggested a threefold strategy: Adopt new gun legislation to strengthen background checks and incentivize safe storage of weapons; invest in social services such as after-school programs and mental health support for young people; and create more economic opportunity, including summer jobs. Studies have shown that victims of violence are at an elevated risk of becoming violent themselves. So St. Louis Children's Hospital developed its Victims of Violence program that seeks to reduce recidivism by pairing surviving shooting victims with mentors and offering counseling, mediation and a link to social service agencies.

In Philadelphia, Chief Inspector Frank Vanore said police also monitor social media and if they're aware of a feud, a team of officers and community leaders meet with those involved in the dispute.

A pilot program this year at Philadelphia's Simon Gratz high will provide intensive services to students in danger of becoming a victim — or a perpetrator — of gun violence.

"We are going to have capacity to get about 60 students into the program but with the number of students we've lost, the amount of violence and guns that Philadelphia is seeing, we know there will be more students who need this program than we can get in," Dunn said. "We know it." □

Cyberattacks concerning to most in US: Pearson/AP-NORC poll

By ALAN SUDERMAN

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) —

Most Americans across party lines have serious concerns about cyberattacks on U.S. computer systems and view China and Russia as major threats, according to a new poll.

The poll by The Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that about 9 in 10 Americans are at least somewhat concerned about hacking that involves their personal information, financial institutions, government agencies or certain utilities. About two-thirds say they are very or extremely concerned.

Roughly three-quarters say the Chinese and Russian governments are major threats to the cybersecurity of the U.S. government, and at least half also see the Iranian government and non-government bodies as threatening.

The broad consensus highlights the growing impacts of cyberattacks in an increasingly connected world and could boost efforts by President Joe Biden and lawmakers to force critical industries to boost their cyber defenses and



In this April 20, 2021, file photo, an alert from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is photographed.

Associated Press

impose reporting requirements for companies that get hacked. The poll comes amid a wave of high-profile ransomware attacks and cyber espionage campaigns in the last year that have compromised sensitive government records and led to the shutdown of the operations of energy companies, hospitals, schools and others.

"It's pretty uncommon nowadays to find issues that

both large majorities of Republicans and Democrats" view as a problem, said David Sterrett, a senior research scientist at The AP-NORC Center.

Biden has made cybersecurity a key issue in his young administration and federal lawmakers are considering legislation to strengthen both public and private cyber defenses.

Michael Daniel, CEO of the Cyber Threat Alliance and

a former top cybersecurity official during the Obama administration, said the poll shows the public is firmly aware of the kind of threats posed online that cybersecurity experts have been stressing for years.

"We don't need to do a whole lot more awareness raising," he said.

The explosion in the last year of ransomware, in which cyber criminals encrypt an organization's data and

then demand payment to unscramble it, has underscored how gangs of extortionist hackers can disrupt the economy and put lives and livelihoods at risk.

One of the cyber incidents with the greatest consequences this year was a ransomware attack in May on the company that owns the nation's largest fuel pipeline, which led to gas shortages along the East Coast. A few weeks later, a ransomware attack on the world's largest meat processing company disrupted production around the world.

Victims of ransomware attacks have ranged from key U.S. agencies and Fortune 500 companies to small entities like Leonardtown, Maryland, which was one of hundreds of organizations affected worldwide when software company Kaseya was hit by ransomware during the Forth of July weekend.

"We ended up being very lucky but it definitely opened our eyes that it could happen to anyone," said Laschelle McKay, the town administrator. She said Leonardtown's I.T. provider was able to restore the town's network and files after several days. □

Tornadoes cause damage in Oklahoma; storms rock central U.S.

COWETA, Okla. (AP) — Severe storms brought suspected tornadoes and baseball-sized hail to parts of Oklahoma, but there were no reports Monday of deaths or injuries.

The severe weather system that hit Oklahoma late Sunday also brought heavy rain, lightning and wind to parts of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Texas, and more stormy weather is predicted for later this week in parts of the central U.S. Severe weather is not unusual in the Southern Plains in October, said Chuck Hodges, senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Tulsa. But Sunday's storm "was kind of more of a spring set-up," he said.

"We had unusually high

moisture and a very, very strong weather system that came through," he said. Tornado warnings and reports of damage popped up across Oklahoma beginning Sunday afternoon, and survey crews with the weather service will head out Monday to determine how many tornadoes struck, Hodges said.

A possible tornado hit the Tulsa suburb of Coweta late Sunday causing significant damage to a high school, homes and a gas station, news outlets reported, and Coweta Public Schools classes were canceled Monday.

Building damage was also reported in Anadarko, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Oklahoma City.

Earlier, baseball-sized hail shattered windows and dented cars in Norman, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Oklahoma City.

In Missouri, survey crews were headed out to rural areas in the southwestern part of the state to determine if tornadoes caused damage that was reported overnight, the weather service said.

Weather radar indicated possible tornadoes near Neosho and Golden City between 1:30 a.m. and about 5 a.m. Monday. Doug Cramer, a weather service meteorologist in Springfield, said there have been vague reports of damage from those areas in Jasper and Newton counties, but no reports of



In this image made from video, debris from tornadoes pile around the pumps of a filling station late Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Associated Press

injuries. Lightning that appeared to be from the same line of storms delayed an NFL game between the Buffalo Bills and the Chiefs in Kansas City, Missouri, for about an hour Sunday night.

On Monday, severe storms were possible in parts of Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan while another round of storms is predicted Tuesday in Kansas and Oklahoma, the Storm Prediction Center said. □

Southwest cancels hundreds more flights, denies sickout

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines canceled several hundred more flights Monday following a weekend of major disruptions that it blamed on bad weather and air traffic control issues. The company and the pilots union said the cancellations were not in response to the airline's decision to mandate vaccinations. Southwest canceled more than 360 flights — 10% of its schedule for the day — on Monday, and more than 1,000 others were delayed, according to the FlightAware tracking service. Shares of Southwest Airlines Co. briefly fell more than 4% before a partial recovery; they were down 3% by afternoon.

The third straight day of large-scale cancellations left thousands of passengers stranded and upset. "My concern is we had no explanation really that was, I feel, very legitimate or believable," said Brian Gesch of Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, who was traveling through Reagan Washington Na-



A Southwest Airlines jetliner taxis down a runway for take off from Denver International Airport Friday, July 2, 2021, in Denver.

Associated Press

tional Airport with his wife. He doubted that weather and air traffic controllers were the real issue. "So we are frustrated and missing a day of work." Some were less concerned about the cause than just getting home. "I'm not sure what's going on," said Sean Merrell of Frisco, Texas, "but as long as

I can get back to Dallas, it's all that matters to me." The widespread disruptions began shortly after the union for Southwest's 9,000 pilots asked a federal court on Friday to block the airline's order that all employees get vaccinated against COVID-19. The union said it doesn't oppose vaccination, but it argued in its filing

that Southwest must negotiate before taking such a step. Pilots are not conducting a sickout or slowdown to protest the vaccine mandate, according to the union, which said it "has not authorized, and will not condone, any job action." The pilots association offered another explana-

tion: It said Southwest's operation "has become brittle and subject to massive failures under the slightest pressure" because of a lack of support from the company. The union complained about the "already strained relationship" between it and the company. Airlines persuaded thousands of workers to take leaves of absence during the pandemic. Unions at Southwest and American have argued that management was too slow to bring pilots back, leaving them short-handed. Alan Kasher, Southwest's executive vice president of daily operations, said the airline was staffed for the weekend but got tripped up by air-traffic control issues and bad weather in Florida and couldn't recover quickly. Because of cutbacks during the pandemic, he noted the airline has fewer flights to accommodate stranded passengers. "The weekend challenges were not a result of Southwest employee demonstrations," said airline spokesman Chris Mainz. □

Election workers accused of shredding voter applications



In this Nov. 25, 2020 file photo, Fulton County Georgia election chief Rick Barron talks to reporters as workers scan ballots during a presidential recount in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By **KATE BRUMBACK**
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Officials in Georgia's most populous county, where election operations are already under review by the state, have fired two workers accused of shredding paper voter registration applications, according to a county

statement released Monday. Preliminary information indicates that the employees checked out batches of applications for processing. Instead of fully processing them, they are alleged to have shredded some of the forms, the Fulton County statement says.

Fellow employees reported the alleged actions to their supervisor Friday morning, and the two employees were fired that day. The county statement says the applications were received in the past two weeks. Fulton County includes most of the city of Atlanta, where voters are set to go to the polls Nov. 2 to elect a new mayor, City Council members and school board members. The deadline to register to vote in that election was Oct. 4. Fulton County Registration and Elections Director Rick Barron also reported the allegations to the secretary of state's office of investigations. Fulton County Commission Chairman Robb Pitts reported the matter to county District Attorney Fani Willis for investigation. "Elections are the most important function of our

government," Pitts said in the statement. "We have committed to transparency and integrity." The county statement does not say how many applications were affected, but Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said in a news release that it was 300 applications. Raffensperger, a Republican who has long been a critic of how elections are run in the heavily Democratic county, said in a statement that his office has launched an investigation and he called on the U.S. Department of Justice to look into the county's elections. "After 20 years of documented failure in Fulton County elections, Georgians are tired of waiting to see what the next embarrassing revelation will be," Raffensperger said in the release. "The Department of Justice needs to take a

long look at what Fulton County is doing and how their leadership disenfranchises Fulton voters through incompetence and malfeasance. The voters of Georgia are sick of Fulton County's failures." Georgia's State Election Board in August appointed a review panel to investigate Fulton County's handling of elections after receiving requests from Republican lawmakers who represent the county. The lawmakers were using a controversial provision of the state's sweeping new election law to trigger a process that could ultimately lead to a takeover of elections in the county. Any Fulton County resident who tries to vote in an upcoming election and is found not to be registered will be able to vote using a provisional ballot, and an investigation will follow, the county statement says. □

EU, Ukraine to discuss military training and cyberthreats

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is considering providing a military training mission to Ukraine amid lingering tensions between Russia and its neighbor, officials said Monday.

Acting on a request from Ukraine for help with "professional military education," the EU sent a fact-finding mission to the country last month. The topic will be discussed during a summit Tuesday in Kyiv, the officials said on condition of anonymity in accordance with EU practices.

The results of the mission have yet to be analyzed in order to define how the 27-nation bloc could best help. One official said the EU's political and security committee, which is responsible for the common foreign and security policy, will go back to the issue in November.

Ukraine is locked in a bitter tug-of-war with Russia, which in 2014 annexed the Crimean Peninsula from

Ukraine and has since been backing a deadly separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine. This summer Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged closer ties between his country, NATO and the EU. Russia is adamantly against Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, getting NATO membership. The EU has imposed economic sanctions against Russia and targeted Russian individuals and entities with restrictive measures in response to the annexation of Crimea and what it calls the "deliberate destabilization of Ukraine."

The European Council, which represents the national governments of all EU nations, on Monday adopted new sanctions on eight more individuals, including judges, prosecutors and security officers.

"Those individuals have taken biased decisions in politically-motivated cases, and prosecuted or oppressed opponents of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol," the council said.



In this Wednesday, June 5, 2020 file photo, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during a media conference at the Europa building in Brussels.

Associated Press

cil said.

According to the EU, the Russian travel bans and asset freezes now target 185 people and 48 entities.

The annexation and Moscow's backing of rebels in the east of Ukraine, where more than 14,000 have been killed since 2014, plunged Russia's relations with the West to post-Cold War lows. The tensions rose again this year after Russia increased troop

numbers near its borders with Ukraine, including in Crimea, eliciting international outrage.

At Tuesday's summit, EU Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are set to reiterate the EU's "unwavering" commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, officials said. Zelenskyy will represent Ukraine during the

talks.

They will also discuss disinformation and cybersecurity with their Ukrainian counterparts. Both sides have already started a cyber-dialogue, with a second round of discussions on that topic scheduled for next year.

"What we are looking to achieve is to really put in place a mechanism to strengthen and deepen on almost a daily basis the inter-institutional cooperation on cybersecurity," an official said.

Other discussions at the summit will center around the progress made since the EU and Ukraine signed a free trade and visa-free travel deal in 2014.

The EU will acknowledge efforts made by Kyiv to keep pushing reforms — including in the rule of law and judiciary, and the creation of effective anti-corruption mechanisms. Other topics will also include climate change, aviation, energy, and cooperation in tackling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. □

2 men guilty of lawyer's murder that shocked the Netherlands

By **MIKE CORDER**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Two men were convicted Monday and sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of a Dutch lawyer who represented a witness in a high-profile criminal case against suspected gangland bosses, a slaying that shocked the nation and sparked calls for a tougher crackdown on organized crime.

The lawyer, 44-year-old Derk Wiersum, was gunned down on Sept. 18, 2019, outside his home in Amsterdam by a man who then fled in a getaway car that was waiting nearby. Police found DNA traces of both defendants in the getaway car and other vehicles used in the days before the shooting to monitor Wiersum's movements.

"With their brutal act, the men have shown a complete lack of respect for the life of another," Amsterdam District Court said in a summary of the written

verdicts. "Solely for money, they took Wiersum's life and inflicted immense and irreparable suffering on his wife, children, parents and other relatives."

Prosecutors said that mobile phone data also showed that both men were in the area at the time of the killing and "their involvement is shown in tapped conversations after the murder." Lawyers for both men, who have been identified by Dutch media only as Giërmoo B. and Moreno B. in line with privacy regulations, had called for their acquittal.

The court said that while it was unclear who fired the fatal shots and who drove the getaway car, both men could be convicted of murder because "the actions of both suspects show that they were jointly out to kill Wiersum."

The lawyer represented a witness identified only as Nabil B. in a high-profile criminal case against sus-

pected gangland bosses accused of involvement in a string of underworld killings. The main suspects, including alleged Dutch gangland boss Ridouan Taghi, are currently on trial in a long-running case on charges including involvement in six murders and four attempted murders. Nabil B. was involved in one of the slayings but cut a deal with prosecutors to provide evidence in return for a lighter sentence.

While the Amsterdam court convicted both men as hired hit men in the Wiersum killing, it didn't make a ruling on who contracted them to carry out the murder.

Well-known Dutch crime reporter, Peter R. de Vries, who was shot in Amsterdam on July 6 and died nine days later, also acted as a confidante to the same witness. The first preliminary hearing in the trial of two men accused of involvement in De Vries' slaying is scheduled for next Monday.



In this Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 file photo, the body of a lawyer who represented a key witness in a major Dutch organized crime trial is carried into a hearse after he was gunned down in Amsterdam, in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Associated Press

The murder sparked outrage in the Netherlands with Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus calling it an attack on Dutch society and saying: "Organized crime has crossed a line."

In recent budget proposals for the coming year, the caretaker Dutch government pledged to spend

more on tackling organized crime that is rooted in the country's lucrative underworld drugs industry.

Judges said the murder "caused great indignation, unrest and feelings of insecurity in society, because a servant of the rule of law has been killed" and said they considered it an aggravating factor when considering their sentence. □

Merkel: Israel can't 'lose sight' of deal with Palestinians

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday implored Israel not to "lose sight" of the need to establish a Palestinian state, as she wrapped up a two-day farewell visit. Merkel's support for a two-state solution has been one of the key disagreements with Israel's leadership during her 16 years in office, which were characterized by unwavering support for Israel.

Speaking at an Israeli think tank, Merkel welcomed the historic diplomatic agreements reached last year between Israel and four Arab countries - led by the United Arab Emirates. But she said the deals, known as the Abraham Accords, did not erase the need for Israel to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

"We must not lose sight of the right of the Palestinians to have a chance to live," she said. "Therefore one should under no circumstances, even as it becomes more and more difficult because of the settlements, lose sight of the issue of a two-state solution," Merkel told a panel at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

Backers of the Abraham Accords, which were brokered by the Trump Administration, have praised them as breaking the long-standing belief that Israel could not forge ties with the Arab



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett chat during a round-table discussion with Israeli entrepreneurs, in Jerusalem Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

world before reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.

Israel's new prime minister, Naftali Bennett, a hard-liner who opposes a Palestinian state on Israeli-occupied lands, has ruled out peace talks with the Palestinians. Instead, he has advocated what he says is a more pragmatic approach of improving living conditions for the Palestinians as a way of lowering tensions. His government, a patchwork of dovish, nationalist and Arab parties that took office in June, so far has not announced any major changes in policy.

Merkel welcomed Ben-

nett's intentions but said such an approach would not be enough.

"I think that such a long-running issue (the conflict with the Palestinians) will not disappear from the agenda, even if there are improved relations with neighboring Arab states," she said.

Throughout Merkel's visit, she was welcomed as a "true friend" of Israel. Her agenda included meetings with Israeli leaders and a stop at Israel's national Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem.

She repeatedly professed Germany's commitment to Israel's security and said she was confident that

her country's next government — to be determined in lengthy coalition talks following an inconclusive election last month — would take a similar stance. A key issue on the agenda was Iran's nuclear program. Germany was one of the world powers that negotiated the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran.

The deal fell apart after then-President Donald Trump, with Israel's support, withdrew in 2018. The Biden administration has been trying to revive that deal over Israeli objections.

Israel considers Iran its greatest enemy, citing the country's military presence

in neighboring Syria and its support for hostile militant groups across the region. It accuses Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons — a charge Iran denies — and believes that international deal did not contain sufficient safeguards.

In the meantime, Iran has marched forward with its nuclear activities, such as increased uranium enrichment - a step that can move it closer to building a bomb.

Merkel said that disagreements among the world powers that negotiated the original deal have weakened their position and allowed Iran to buy time and expand its military activities across the region.

"Iran knows this, and therefore we face a very serious situation," she said. She acknowledged that she does not have a solution, but called on key players, including Russia and China, to take a stronger public stance against Iran.

"The more countries make it clear that they don't accept the ambitions and aggression of Iran, the better for the region," she said.

Israel was formed in the wake of the Holocaust in 1948 and the two countries only established diplomatic ties in 1965. But over the decades, those ties have warmed and Germany is one of Israel's closest and most important international allies and trade partners. □

Tunisia gets new government, appoints record number of women



In this photo distributed by the Tunisian Presidency, Tunisian Prime Minister Najla Bouden talks during the the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, Monday, Oct. 11, 2021 in Tunis.

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia got a new government Monday after more than two months without one, with the new prime minister naming her Cabinet, which includes a record number of women.

The ministerial appointments announced by Prime Minister Najla Bouden filled a vacuum that had persisted since President Kais Saied abruptly dismissed his former cabinet and suspended parliament 11 weeks ago, concentrating all executive powers. His critics and constitutional

lawyers have likened his actions to a coup in the North African nation.

Bouden, named Sept. 29 by Saied as Tunisia's first female prime minister, said during the swearing-in ceremony of her new ministers that their main priority would be fighting corruption.

The new Cabinet of 24 ministers and a secretary of state has an unprecedented 10 women, including the prime minister. They include Leila Jaffel, new at the Ministry of Justice, and Sihem Boughdiri

Nemseya, reappointed as finance minister. Saied had previously promised a new government in July. But he then partially suspended the constitution on Sept. 22 and gave himself the power to rule by decree. He has argued that pandemic-hit Tunisia is in crisis and has described the measures as temporary, although he said Monday that they "will remain in force for as long as the peril is real."

Protests for and against Saied have attracted thousands of people in recent weeks. □

U.N., Bangladesh sign deal to aid Rohingya relocated to island

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— The United Nations and Bangladesh's government have signed an agreement to work together to help Rohingya refugees on an island in the Bay of Bengal where thousands have been relocated from cramped camps near the Myanmar border.

More than 19,000 Rohingya have already been moved to the Bhasan Char island by the government, and the U.N. said one of the key reasons to sign the agreement was to start serving that population.

Bangladesh plans to relocate 100,000 Rohingya to the island in phases from the crowded refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district.

The agreement came as a paradigm shift after the U.N. and humanitarian groups criticized the relocation, saying the 30-year-old island regularly submerged by monsoon rains was not fit for habitation. But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government has spent more than \$112 million on development, adding sea walls, hospitals, schools and mosques, and insists it is no more a vulnerable area.

After Saturday's agreement, authorities said another 81,000 refugees



In this Dec. 29, 2020, file photo, Rohingya refugees wait on naval ships to be transported to an isolated island in the Bay of Bengal, in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

would be relocated to the island over next three months.

A U.N. team's visit to the island in March preceded the world body's changed view. In a statement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said the agreement was a further expression of the Bangladesh's "generosity and support toward the Rohingya population until they can return safely and sustainably to Myanmar."

The agreement allows for

close cooperation between the government and the U.N. on services and activities to benefit the island's residents. The U.N. also said it had discussions with Rohingya living in Cox's Bazar as well as those already living on Bhasan Char island, prior to signing of the agreement.

"These cover key areas of protection, education, skills-training, livelihoods and health, which will help support the refugees to lead decent lives on the island and better prepare

them for sustainable return to Myanmar in the future," according to the statement.

Johannes Van Der Klaauw, representative at the UNHCR, said the organization has seen the island and believes Bangladesh's government has added "significant infrastructure" to offset

environmental hazards. The agreement also allows refugees to move back and forth between the island and the main camps in Cox's Bazar, he said.

Refugees will also have a chance to earn a living through odd jobs that will be accessible once aid organizations set up on the island. Klaauw also noted that movement to Bhasan Char would be on an informed and voluntary basis.

But most Rohingya refugees say they don't want to relocate.

A woman who had moved to the island with her family earlier this year said many escaped on boats back to the camp because life on the island is hard for the refugees.

"If people stay there for a couple of years, all of them might start having mental issues," she said, adding that medical and other aid facilities were not very well set up on the island. She was unwilling to be named, fearing retribution.

Amir Hamza, 63, another refugee said he won't relocate to the island. □

Number of children crossing Darien Gap hits record high

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia (AP)

— The number of minors who risked their lives to cross the Darien Gap, the inhospitable stretch of land that separates Colombia and Panama, reached a record high between January and September, UNICEF revealed Monday. The U.N. children's agency said 19,000 minors faced the rigors of the jungle during that period. At least one in five of the migrants who walked the area, which is filled with wild animals and dotted with criminals, are children, of which half were under the age of 5.

"The rapid growth in the



This Sept. 15, 2021 file photo shows a young migrant being carried north near Acandí, Colombia.

Associated Press

influx of children heading north from South America should be urgently treated as a serious humanitarian crisis throughout the region,

beyond Panama," Jean Gough, UNICEF director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said in a statement. □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair

ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.



'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not



frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more.

About the place

The glow of Aqua Grill is obvious by entering the restaurant. The eclectic of a modern and a traditional New England fish house style appeal and the open-view kitchen adds to the thrill. It's clear as water; for sublime seafood in Aruba go to the island's premier seafood restaurant: Aqua Grill. This seafood-heaven place is already a statement for years with a consistency in upscale dining and top-shelf service. If you like to savor your seafood, this is your dive in. We promise you will get hooked.

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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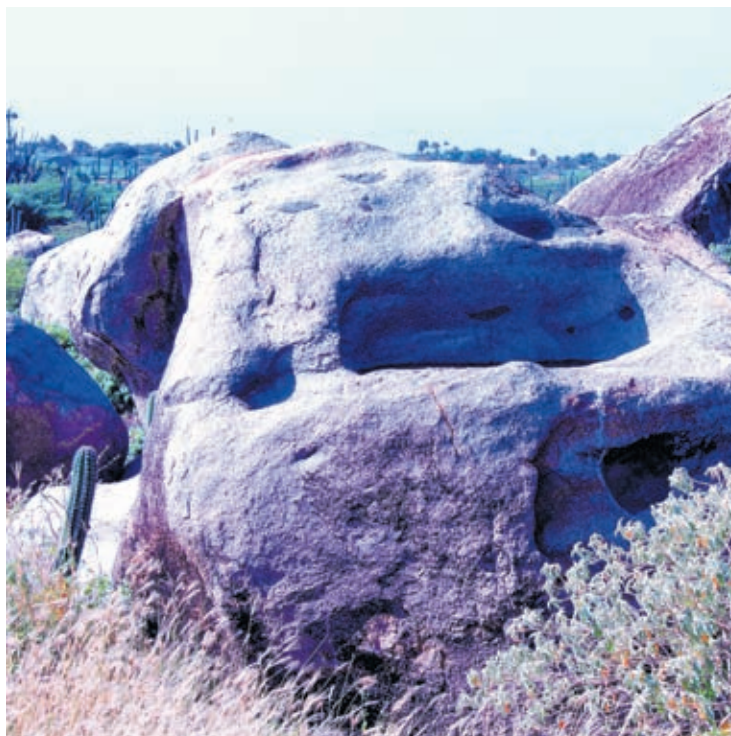
Raising awareness

NOORD — Aruba's Indigenous Cultural Heritage is meticulously researched, documented, presented and preserved by Etnia Nativa.

Our collection consists in objects displayed in a permanent exhibition. These objects, along with any relevant information pertaining to them, cover an era way beyond 9000 years ago and that lasted till today. Seashells, stone-and ceramic objects help tell the history of the Pre-Ceramic ancestors evidently (2,500 B.C.-900/1000 A.C.), the Caquetian Chiefdom (900/1000-1515 A.C.) and the indigenous peoples who lived during what is now known as the Historic Period (1515-1880 A.C.). Our practice doesn't differ to that of archaeologists and historians, "to leave things in their place to the guard of any alteration", thus keeping archaeological details in their original place because in the near future and with the technological advance they could carry out more sophisticated studies and thus obtain more accurate

data on how our ancestors lived. Based on the concept "to leave things in their place..." Etnia Nativa pride itself on providing a welcome that emanates from Aruba's ethnic roots and the now extinct agro-pottery culture. We also advocates for nature preservation, creativity and self-consciousness. We teach that typically a large stones with a smooth depression or bowl worn into the upper surface was enough to create life around. The bowl is formed whether

by weather or by the continual and long-term grinding of materials by using a smooth hand-held manga, stone (aka: mano) for a proficient method of turning grains into flour. The laborious action consists of a horizontal grinding motion that differs from the vertical crushing motion used in a mortar and pestle. Deeper metate bowls indicate either a longer period of use or greater degree of activity. In traditional Amerindian culture, Qudi's were typically used by women who



Episode CXXV 125



would grind maize and other organic materials during food preparation. Making a sort of tortillas, cachapa or pan bafí bread. Beyond grinding cereals, seeds and legumes, qudi's were used to elaborate healing potions, grinding clay, milling fish bones, extract natural dye of vegetation and minerals and in the elaboration of ropes, an unimaginable ways of usage and applications. Sad is the unfathomable loss Island cultural heritage has suffers through illegal export to foreign collector's during the late 70's.

Qudi must be an old native name for our island's native grinding stones, since in Papiamentu it is called "Piedra di mula" (Pie` di mula) grinding stone. However the word qudi also means a depression or hole in a hard rock surface or bolder that can hold rain water for a longer time, which is till the next rain fall. qudi as waterholes, small sink holes in the flat lime stone floor where coral meets the rocky island and where little springs sometimes occurs. Now the qudi as a native Aruban milling stone is a symbol of sedentary survival that goes back thousands of years. One of Aruba's native heritage symbols. Ancestral milling stone or qudi accompanied by its prefect shaped pestle or manga. □

Did you say that you love Aruba its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just as you. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etniamativa03@gmail.com or Whatsapp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation.

Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 9 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.



We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscanyresidencearuba.com/en/news>. For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscanyresidencearuba.com. □

Tuscany Residence Aruba

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Fortify your finances against natural disaster

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Emergency preparedness experts recommend that you have a "go bag" and a "stay bin" for disasters: kits with supplies to help you survive a few days if you have to evacuate your home or shelter in place.

Preparing your finances for natural disasters is also smart. Having cash on hand, access to credit and the right insurance coverage can help you get through perilous times. Fortifying your home against disasters also can be a good investment.

Not everyone can make these preparations, of course. People with the fewest resources often suffer the brunt of disasters. But anything you can do to bolster your situation now could help you limit the toll.

STASH SOME CASH

Having cash on hand could help you pay for groceries, gas, shelter and other necessities if ATMs and payment systems aren't functioning, which could happen if the power goes out or cyberattacks knock systems offline.

You may need more than you think, especially if you're away from your home for more than a few days. Insurance consumer advocate Amy Bach recommends keeping at least \$2,000 in a safe place somewhere in your home. After a widespread disaster, there is often "incredible competition" for rentals and other lodging, and a cash deposit could help you secure a place to stay, says Bach, executive director of the nonprofit United Policyholders.

The currency should be in addition to any emergency savings you have at the bank. Again, anything is better than nothing. While financial planners typically recommend an emergency fund equal to three to six months of expenses, even a couple hundred dollars can help you cope.

GET SOME CREDIT

Your insurance may have high deductibles or other limitations on your coverage that require you to pay



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket. Earthquake and hurricane policies, for example, often have deductibles of 10% or more of the insured value. Insurers also may limit how much they pay for upgrades needed to meet current building codes or for replacing older roofs, Bach says.

A home equity line of credit can give you access to a relatively inexpensive source of money in an emergency. You'll need to set this up long before

disaster strikes, since lenders won't let you borrow against a damaged home. Resist the urge to tap this credit for other purposes, so that the money is available when you need it.

An alternative if you're a renter or otherwise can't qualify for a HELOC is to ask your bank for a personal line of credit. Credit cards can also help pay the bills if there's enough available credit. Once you have \$500 or so set aside for emergencies, consider paying down your credit cards and aim

to use no more than 30% of your credit limits. Using even less of your credit limits would be even better, because it frees up more space on your cards and also helps to build or maintain your credit scores.

TRY TO COVER THE BIG RISKS

Check your home's susceptibility to various disasters at freehomerisk.com, a database created by HazardHub, which supplies risk data to insurance companies. Each hazard your property might face is graded from A to F. The

lower the grade, the more you should consider ways to mitigate the risk if you can, says HazardHub co-founder Bob Frady.

That could mean buying additional coverage. A typical homeowners or renters policy doesn't cover damage from floods or earthquakes, for example, but such coverage can be purchased separately.

Review your policy to see what's covered and what's not. Make sure you have replacement coverage for your possessions rather than actual cash value coverage, which pays considerably less. You'll also want at least 24 months of loss-of-use coverage, which pays for your living expenses while your home is rebuilt, Bach says. Widespread disasters can cause even longer rebuilding times.

For example, "It usually takes at least two years to rebuild after a wildfire," she says.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU CAN

There's no way to make your home entirely disaster-proof, but there are ways to "harden it" to reduce potential losses, Frady says.

Frady helped start HazardHub after a friend's home suffered significant uninsured damage when a nearby river overflowed its banks.

The friend didn't realize she lived next to a flood zone because she wasn't required by her mortgage lender to buy flood insurance, Frady says.

If she'd known, she could have purchased the insurance and taken steps to protect her property, such as regularly changing the batteries in her sump pump, which failed, and keeping valuable items out of the basement or other low points in the house.

Installing storm shutters may reduce losses to hurricanes and tornadoes, while bolting your house to its foundation can help it survive an earthquake.

"There's power in knowing what the perils are, and that can lead you to create a safer location," Frady says. □

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

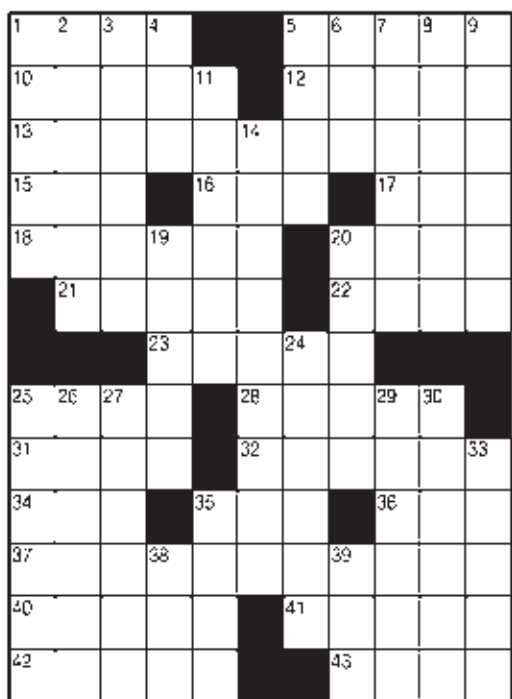
- 42 Like seawater
1 Thin-layered mineral
5 "Wouldn't that be great!"
10 Wise saying
12 Fad
13 Spider-Man's alter ego
15 — Vegas
16 Fellows
17 Belief, in brief
18 Draw out
20 Presidential power
21 Gem
22 Persia, today
23 Words of action
25 Whittle down
28 Recesses
31 Prayer finish
32 Long-plumed birds
34 Work wk. start
35 Favoring
36 At present
37 "My Favorite Year" star
40 Degrade
41 "Tiny Alice" playwright

DOWN

- 1 Syrup source
2 Worthy aims
3 Keep tabs on a tabby
4 Historic time
5 "— Old Cowhand (From the Rio Grande)"
6 Fighting
7 More black
8 Midday break
9 Mark of "NCIS"
11 Royal fur
14 Grammy-winning pianist
19 Witch group
20 Cap feature
24 Colombia capital
25 Grassy plains
26 One-celled creature
27 Tourist's car
29 Obi-Wan —
30 Hot, in a way
33 Sugary
35 Hunted animal
38 Superlative suffix
39 Ancient



Yesterday's answer



10-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

K U S S P C D L Z R U Z C U A C Z B

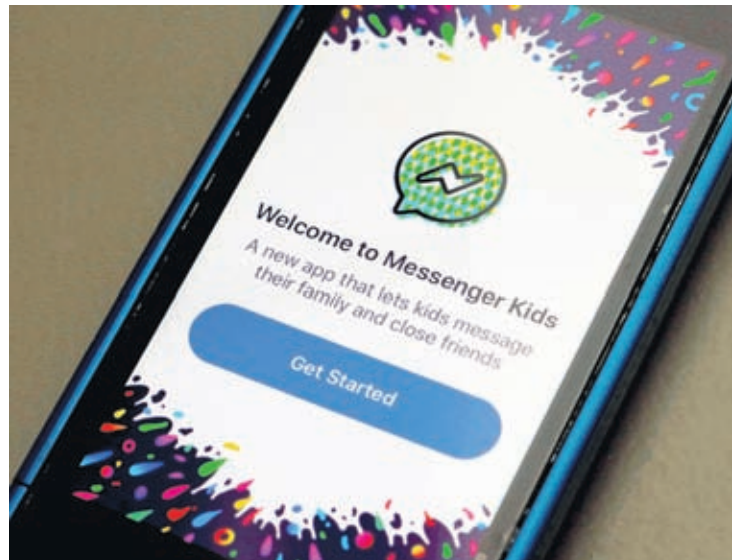
S T M S N Z W C U I T U K F P L M

S G W U L T Z B Z X L S G U C D S T

R U V V M B Z Z I L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BY FAILING TO PREPARE, YOU ARE PREPARING TO FAIL. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Facebook unveils new controls for kids using its platforms



In this Feb. 16, 2018, file photo, Facebook's Messenger Kids app is displayed on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook, in the aftermath of damning testimony that its platforms harm children, will be introducing several features including prompting teens to take a break using its photo sharing app Instagram, and "nudging" teens if they are repeatedly looking at the same content that's not conducive to their well-being. The Menlo Park, California-based Facebook is also planning to introduce new controls for adults of teens on an optional basis so that parents or guardians can supervise what their teens are doing online. These initiatives come after Facebook announced late last month that it was pausing work on its Instagram for Kids project. But critics say the plan lacks details and they are skeptical that the new features would be effective.

The new controls were outlined on Sunday by Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice president for global affairs, who made the rounds on various Sunday news shows including CNN's "State of the Union" and ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" where he was grilled about Facebook's use of algorithms as well as its role in spreading harmful misinformation ahead of the Jan. 6 Capitol riots.

"We are constantly iterating in order to improve our

products," Clegg told Dana Bash on "State of the Union" Sunday.

"We cannot, with a wave of the wand, make everyone's life perfect. What we can do is improve our products, so that our products are as safe and as enjoyable to use."

Clegg said that Facebook has invested \$13 billion over the past few years in making sure to keep the platform safe and that the company has 40,000 people working on these issues. And while Clegg said that Facebook has done its best to keep harmful content out of its platforms, he says he was open for more regulation and oversight.

"We need greater transparency," he told CNN's Bash. He noted that the systems that Facebook has in place should be held to account, if necessary, by regulation so that "people can match what our systems say they're supposed to do from what actually happens."

The flurry of interviews came after whistleblower Frances Haugen, a former data scientist with Facebook, went before Congress last week to accuse the social media platform of failing to make changes to Instagram after internal research showed apparent harm to some teens and of being dishonest in its public fight against hate and misinformation. Haugen's accusations were support-

ed by tens of thousands of pages of internal research documents she secretly copied before leaving her job in the company's civic integrity unit.

Josh Golin, executive director of Fairplay, a watchdog for the children and media marketing industry, said that he doesn't think introducing controls to help parents supervise teens would be effective since many teens set up secret accounts any way. He was also dubious about how effective nudging teens to take a break or move away from harmful content would be. He noted Facebook needs to show exactly how they would implement it and offer research that shows these tools are effective.

"There is tremendous reason to be skeptical," he said. He added that regulators need to restrict what Facebook does with its algorithms.

He said he also believes that Facebook should cancel its Instagram project for kids.

When Clegg was grilled by both Bash and Stephanopoulos in separate interviews about the use of algorithms in amplifying misinformation ahead of Jan. 6 riots, he responded that if Facebook removed the algorithms people would see more, not less hate speech, and more, not less, misinformation.

Clegg told both hosts that the algorithms serve as "giant spam filters."

Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who chairs the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, told Bash in a separate interview Sunday that it's time to update children's privacy laws and offer more transparency in the use of algorithms.

"I appreciate that he is willing to talk about things, but I believe the time for conversation is done," said Klobuchar, referring to Clegg's plan. "The time for action is now." □

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Scientists urge speedy switch to renewables in Middle East

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press
NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A climate change conference will underscore to policymakers in the Middle East and the east Mediterranean that the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is needed urgently because greenhouse gas emissions are helping to drive up regional temperatures faster than in many other inhabited parts of the world.

George Zittis, a scientist at the Cyprus Institute's Climate and Atmosphere Research Center, said that although this "can't happen overnight" because of the region's heavy dependency on fossil fuels for energy production, governments have to make the switch within the next two decades to avert potentially "irreversible effects" such as desertification. □



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Chopin portrait bought at flea market is from 19th century

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A peeling portrait of Frederic Chopin purchased at a flea market in Poland hung modestly in a private house for almost three decades before an expert dated the painting to the 19th century, when the Polish piano composer lived.

Now restored and in a gilded frame, the small painting resides in a bank vault somewhere in eastern Poland while its owners negotiate their next steps, including a public exhibit.

News of the artwork's existence broke this week as Warsaw hosted the 18th Frederic Chopin Piano Competition, an international event known for launching the careers of world-class pianists. The competition runs through Oct. 23.

Nicolaus Copernicus University professor Dariusz Markowski, the art expert who examined and restored the portrait last year, says it has significant historic and emotional value, but he refrained from es-



This combination of undated photos provided by Dariusz Markowski, left, and Jaroslaw Golebowski, right, show a portrait of Polish composer Frederic Chopin before and after restoration.

Associated Press

timating what it might sell for.

The painting measures 29.5 centimeters by 23.3 centimeters (11.5 inches by 9 inches.) Using advanced methods, Markowski timed its creation to the mid-19th century based on the materials and pigments used, and the extent of the aging and damage.

But it is not now possible to pinpoint the exact year of its provenance, and it will be difficult to identify who painted it because only the artist's first name, Alfred, is preserved, he said.

"It is evidently Chopin, but I cannot say whether he posed for this portrait or whether it was painted from another picture," said

Markowski, principal of the Torun university's Conservation and Restoration of Modern Art Department.

"We know nothing of its history or who it was painted for," he told The Associated Press. "It was in a very bad state, and I'm really happy that artwork like this can be saved."

Chopin was born in 1810 in

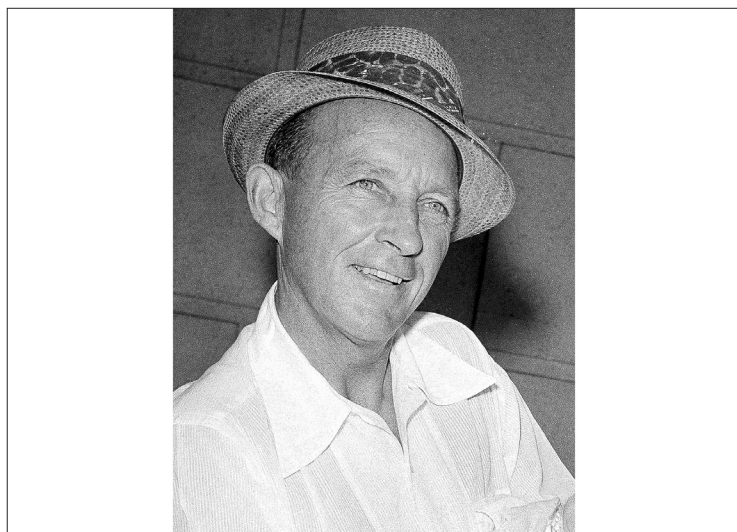
a manor house in Zelazowa Wola, a village near Warsaw, to a Polish mother and a French father. He left Poland at 19 to broaden his music education in Vienna and then in Paris, where he settled, composing, giving concerts and teaching piano.

He died in Paris on Oct. 17, 1849 and is buried at the Pere Lachaise cemetery, but his heart is kept at the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, where observances mark the anniversaries of his birth and death.

An art connoisseur spotted the portrait that Markowski calls "a real curiosity" at a flea market near Lublin in the early 1990s. Decades later, a financial situation prompted the family to seek a professional appraisal, which led them to the university expert.

A member of the family says it's "extraordinary" that the painting survived about 170 years of historic turmoil and ended up in a flea market. He says the family's recent attention to the portrait made him study Chopin's life and music. □

Bing Crosby's heirs sell stake in estate to boost his work



Actor-singer Bing Crosby appears in Los Angeles on Sept. 20, 1959.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Harry Crosby was 19 when his father, Bing, died in 1977. But when he goes to a shopping mall or party in December, there's a strong chance he'll hear his dad's voice singing "White Christmas."

He and his family want to hear that voice more dur-

ing the other 11 months, a desire that led to a deal being announced Monday to sell an equal stake in the rights to Bing Crosby's estate to Primary Wave Music.

It's another example of how the sale of catalog rights has become a booming business, with

most involving rock artists who write their own music — Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Neil Young and Stevie Nicks are examples. The Crosby deal is the most prominent involving a pre-rock artist who primarily interpreted songs written by others. The deal is estimated in excess of \$50 million.

A younger generation knows Crosby best through "White Christmas" and the duet with David Bowie on "The Little Drummer Boy" made for a television special shortly before his death. Fewer people alive remember Crosby's days as a major recording artist and movie star.

"There were things that became absolutely top hits in the '30s and '40s, for a sustained period of time, and they just went away," Harry Crosby said. "People associate dad with Christmas, but in the '40s and '50s, they didn't associate him with

Christmas. They associated dad with tons of things, and that's what I want to bring back."

Some of his hit songs include "Pennies From Heaven," "It's Been a Long, Long Time," "Don't Fence Me In" and "Accentuate the Positive."

Crosby won an Academy Award for best actor for playing a priest in the 1945 film "Going My Way," and made seven "road" movies with his friend, comic Bob Hope. His association with golf is also remembered, as he created the first pro-am tournament and was reportedly a member of 75 golf clubs.

Crosby's family, which includes his widow and two of Harry's siblings, have been interested in a documentary series to tell Bing's story.

Primary Wave's first priority is to increase Crosby's digital footprint, to boost his

profile on Spotify and get his music added to playlists for a generation unfamiliar with it, said Larry Mestel, the company's founder and CEO.

"We want to be in business and partner with the greatest of the greats, regardless of the genre, regardless of the era," Mestel said. Primary Wave also works with the estates of Count Basie and Ray Charles.

The challenge lies in infiltrating a new youth culture with the work of a mature artist, he said. Unlike many of the rock-era artists involved in such deals, Crosby obviously isn't around to perform or promote his work.

But while song publishing is at the heart of many such deals, Mestel said Primary Wave takes a broader look at ways to get an artist's name out there and, of course, make money off his likeness or work. □

Astros dismiss sign-stealing implications by Chisox pitcher

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Houston Astros found themselves in familiar territory Monday, brushing aside comments by Chicago White Sox reliever Ryan Tepera after he implied they stole signs while winning the first two games of the AL Division Series in their ballpark.

"He can say what he wants to say," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "I had never even heard his name before we played the White Sox. I'm not bothered by it. Most of my life, they've been talking stuff on me anyway. Let them talk."

Baker pointed out the Astros had similar offensive statistics at home and on the road, then offered some advice while mentioning he had listened to Eric Clapton that morning. "He had a song, 'Before You Accuse Me (Take a Look at Yourself),' " he said. "That's all I've got to say."

The Astros were disciplined by Major League Baseball after it found the team used electronics to steal signs during their run to the 2017 World Series title and again in the 2018 season. It remains a sensitive subject, and Tepera shined another light on it with his



Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker Jr., left, and Chicago White Sox manager Tony La Russa greet each other before Game 3 of a baseball American League Division Series, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, in Chicago.

Associated Press

comments after the White Sox won Game 3 Sunday to avoid a sweep.

Houston outscored the White Sox 15-5 in winning the first two games at home. Chicago averted a sweep with a 12-6 win on Sunday night.

The Astros lead the best-of-five series 2-1. Game 4 got postponed Monday because of forecast rain, and the teams are set to play Tuesday.

Carlos Rodón is scheduled

to start for Chicago, with Game 1 starter Lance Lynn available out of the bullpen.

Manager Tony La Russa said Lynn or Lucas Giolito would start a potential Game 5 Wednesday at Houston depending on how things go on Tuesday.

The Astros opted to go with Lance McCullers Jr., hoping he can close out the series after delivering a dominant start Thursday in the opener. José Urquidy was set to

pitch on Monday.

But much of the talk in the wake of Game 3 centered on Tepera's comments. And Houston third baseman Alex Bregman shrugged them off.

"It's all good," he said. "We're focused on winning games. That's it."

The Astros put themselves in position to sweep after two impressive victories at Minute Maid Park. But they whiffed 16 times in Game 3 at Guaranteed Rate Field

after striking out a combined 16 times in the first two games.

Tepera, who threw two perfect innings, noted the difference following the game.

"Yeah. It is what it is," he said. "They've obviously had a reputation of doing some sketchy stuff over there," he said. "It's just, we can say that it's a little bit of a difference. I think you saw the swings and misses tonight compared to, you know, the first two games at Minute Maid. But that's not really the story, you know? We come here to play. We're going to compete. We're not going to worry about what they're going to do."

"All we have to do is execute pitches and they can't hit them anyways," he said. La Russa said he was aware of Tepera's remarks, but hadn't read them.

"This is America, and players on our side can say what they want to," he said. "I think that they're a very good team and they're tough to beat. That's what I think."

MLB's investigation found Houston used a video feed from a center-field camera to see and decode the opposing catcher's signs during home games. □

Depay has 2 goals as the Netherlands beats Gibraltar 6-0

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Memphis Depay scored twice, had two assists and missed a penalty as the Netherlands overpowered Gibraltar 6-0 to remain top of Europe Group G in World Cup qualifying on Monday.

Second-placed Norway, playing without injured striker Erling Haaland, beat Montenegro 2-0 to remain two points adrift of the Dutch, and Burak Yilmaz scored the winner from the penalty spot deep in second-half stoppage time as Turkey beat Latvia 2-1 in Riga.

Depay put his disappointing club season at Barcelona behind him with a productive night at De

Kuip Stadium in Rotterdam against one of the world's soccer minnows. His first goal of the night was his 13th of the year for Oranje, breaking the Dutch record of 12 in a calendar year by Patrick Kluivert.

Depay's 21st-minute strike after a pass from Davy Klaassen came just two minutes after Gibraltar goalkeeper Bradley Banda marked his international debut by saving the striker's first penalty of the night. Depay made no mistake with his second spot kick to put the Dutch 3-0 up in first-half stoppage time.

Captain Virgil van Dijk opened the scoring with a ninth-minute header from a Depay corner, the de-

fender's first goal since his return from last season's knee injury.

"I am really happy to have scored for the first time in a really long time," Van Dijk told Dutch broadcaster NOS. Wing back Denzel Dumfries made it 4-0 three minutes after the break and substitute Arnaut Danjuma, a late callup to replace the injured Cody Gakpo, scored on his return to the Dutch team for the first time since his first two internationals in 2018.

Another second-half substitute, Donyell Malen, completed the rout in the 86th. The scoreline could have been much worse for the visitors — the Dutch had 31 attempts on goal



Netherlands' Memphis Depay during the World Cup 2022 group G qualifying soccer match between Latvia and the Netherlands at the Daugava stadium in Riga, Latvia, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

to Gibraltar's one. Mohamed Elyounoussi scored both goals in Norway's victory in Oslo. Turkey fell behind to Lat-

via thanks to a Merih Demiral own goal before Serdar Dursun equalized and Yilmaz earned the winner. □

Changed race, familiar result: Kenyans sweep Boston Marathon

By JIMMY GOLEN

BOSTON (AP) — With fall foliage replacing the blooming daffodils and mylar blankets sharing space with masks, the pandemic-delayed Boston Marathon returned Monday after a 30-month absence for a smaller, socially distanced race that ended in a very familiar way.

Benson Kipruto and Diana Kipyogei completed a Kenyan sweep — the eighth since 2000 at the world's oldest and most prestigious 26.2-miler, which moved from its traditional spring date for the first time in its 125-year history because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"We were injured, wounded. Now is the comeback story," said 2014 winner Meb Keflezighi, one of the past champions sharing grand marshal duties with hospital employees who worked through the pandemic. "Hopefully this is an example that post-pandemic, life is getting back to normal."

Although organizers put runners through COVID-19 protocols and asked spectators to keep their distance, there were still sizable crowds in spots from Hopkinton to Boston after an early drizzle cleared and temperatures rose into the 60s.

Participants in the field of 18,000 — down from more than 30,000 in pre-pandemic days — needed to test negative for the coronavirus or prove they were vaccinated before picking up their bib numbers. Masks were required indoors in Boston and on the buses out to the start; they also were handed out along with the finishers' medals and fruit on Boylston Street. The race also began earlier and with a rolling send-off to avoid the usual crowding in the starting corrals



Benson Kipruto, left, and Diana Kipyogei, both of Kenya, celebrate winning the men's and women's divisions of the 125th Boston Marathon on Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

and on the course.

None of the changes proved a problem for the Kenyans.

"There's not a lot different on the course," Kipruto said. A winner in Prague and Athens who finished 10th in Boston in 2019, Kipruto broke away from the lead pack as it turned onto Beacon Street with about three miles to go and broke the tape in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 51 seconds. Lemi Berhanu, who won the race in 2016, was second, 46 seconds back; Colin Bennie of Princeton, Massachusetts, was the top American, in seventh.

Kipyogei claimed the women's title, a gilded olive wreath and the \$150,000 first prize, finishing in 2:24:45 in her major marathon debut. Edna Kipligat, the 2017 winner, was second, 23 seconds behind.

Marcel Hug won the men's

wheelchair race despite making a wrong turn in the final mile, finishing the slightly detoured route just seven seconds off his course record in 1:08:11. Manuela Schär, also from Switzerland, won the women's wheelchair race in 1:35:21. Hug, who has raced Boston eight times and has five victories here, cost himself a \$50,000 course record bonus when he missed the second-to-last turn, following the lead vehicle instead of turning from Commonwealth Avenue onto Hereford Street.

"At the moment I'm really upset," said Hug, who finished second in the Chicago Marathon by 1 second on Sunday. "I hope in an hour, two hours, I'll feel more happy."

Kipruto waited out an early breakaway by CJ Albertson, who led by as many as two minutes at the half-

way point but slowed in the Newton Hills and fell behind near Boston College. Albertson, who is the world record-holder in the 50K (42.2 miles), finished 10th.

A Fresno, California, native, Albertson said he tried to keep things interesting during the pandemic by binging on Peloton classes; he finished atop the leaderboard 57 times and also set a record by running a 2:09 marathon on the treadmill. "I was just bored and unmotivated, trying to find something to do. I just made stuff up," he said. "Having a race like Boston ... actually racing and competing with the world's best in one of the best atmospheres there is to run in — second to Fresno — nothing else compares. This was an amazing day."

Recreational runners streamed across the Back Bay finish line into the afternoon, turning to the sidewalks and pumping their arms to prompt the thinner crowds alongside the course to cheer.

On Boylston Street, spectators lined up shoulder to shoulder, with few wearing masks; Boston requires them indoors. Some said

they weren't concerned about COVID-19 since they were vaccinated and outside.

A rolling start and shrunken field allowed for social distancing on the course, as organizers tried to manage a changing pandemic that forced them to cancel the race last year for the first time since a group of Bostonians returned from the 1896 Athens Olympics and decided to stage a marathon of their own.

Since then, the race has persisted through World Wars and even the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. But it was first postponed, then canceled last year, then postponed from the spring in 2021.

It's the first time the event hasn't been held in April as part of the Patriots' Day holiday that commemorates the start of the Revolutionary War. To recognize Indigenous Peoples Day, race organizers honored 1936 and '39 winner Ellison "Tarzan" Brown and three-time runner-up Patti Catalano Dillon, a member of the Mi'kmaq tribe.

Police were visible along the course as authorities vowed to remain vigilant eight years after the bombings that killed three spectators and maimed hundreds of others on Boylston Street near the Back Bay finish line.

A light rain greeted participants at the Hopkinton Green, where about 30 uniformed members of the Massachusetts National Guard were the first to leave, at 6 a.m. The men's and women's wheelchair racers — some of whom completed the 26.2-mile (42.2 km) distance in Chicago a day earlier — left shortly after 8 a.m., followed by the men's and women's professional fields. "We took things for granted before COVID-19. It's great to get back to the community and it puts things in perspective," said National Guard Capt. Greg Davis, 39, who was walking with the military group for the fourth time. "This is a historic race, but today is a historic day." □



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